

CHAPTER 3

SECTION 3.7

PECTUS EXCAVATUM

Issue Date: December 29, 1982

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(e\)\(8\)\(i\)\(A\)](#) and [\(e\)\(8\)\(ii\)\(C\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODE RANGE

21740, 21899

II. DESCRIPTION

Pectus excavatum is an undue depression of the sternum called "hollowed breast," funnel breast or funnel chest. It is a congenital skeletal defect in which the sternum is depressed into the thoracic cavity by abnormal partial developmental dislocation of the joints between the ribs and the sternum.

III. POLICY

Surgery to correct the skeletal defect can be covered as correction of a congenital anomaly when the defect is more than a minor anatomical anomaly. Documentation of the degree or severity of the skeletal defect is required.

IV. EXCEPTIONS

Breast augmentation due to the congenital absence of the pectoralis major and minor muscles is not covered.

V. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

A. The degree of skeletal deformity in pectus excavatum can be documented by photographs, radiographs, cardiac and pulmonary function tests, or a narrative description by a physician.

B. Any case in which there is a question on the severity of the skeletal defect shall be referred for a medical review.

- END -

